In the Claims:

Please cancel non-elected claims 1-11, 14-19, and 21-29.

Please insert the following amendments:

12. (Currently amended) A method for isolating a gene encoding a protein that inhibits transduction of specific intracellular signals, wherein the method comprises,

(a) introducing a gene library into host cells transformed with a vector holding a gene capable of inducing cell death under specific conditions, wherein said gene is linked downstream of a promoter region that functions in response to a specific extracellular stimulation via said specific intracellular signals;

(b) adding the specific extracellular stimulation under the specific conditions to the cells obtained in (a) and screening for living cells; and

(c) isolating the gene introduced into said cells from the cells screened in (b).

13. (Currently amended) A method for isolating a gene encoding a protein that inhibits transduction of specific intracellular signals, wherein the method comprises,

(a) introducing a gene library into hypoxanthine-guanine-phosphoribosyltransferase (HGPRT) deficient host cells transformed with a vector holding a xanthine-guanine-phosphoribosyltransferase gene capable of inducing cell death under specific conditions, wherein said gene is linked downstream of a promoter region that functions in response to specific extracellular stimulation via said specific intracellular signals;

(b) adding the specific extracellular stimulation in the presence of 6-thioguanine to the cells obtained in (a) and screening for living cells; and

(c) isolating the gene in said cells from the cells screened in (b).

20. (Currently amended) A method for isolating a gene encoding a protein that inhibits transduction of specific intracellular signals, wherein the method comprises,

(a) introducing into host cells a gene library that can be expressed in the host cells and a vector having a reporter gene linked downstream from a promoter region that functions in response to specific extracellular stimulation via said specific intracellular signals;

(b) applying specific extracellular stimulation to the host cells into which the vector in (a) is introduced, detecting the activity of the product of the reporter gene, and selecting cells in which said activity decreases; and

(c) isolating a gene introduced into said cells from the cells screened in (b).

30. (Re-instated – formerly claim # 2) The method of claim 12, wherein said extracellular stimulation is stimulation by cytokine.

31. (Re-instated – formerly claim #3) The method of claim 12, wherein said extracellular stimulation is stimulation by tumor necrosis factor (TNF).

32. (Re-instated – formerly claim #4) The method of claim 31, wherein said promoter region is a promoter region for the interleukin 8 gene.

33. (Re-instated – formerly claim #14) The method of claim 13, wherein said extracellular stimulation is stimulation by cytokine.

34. (Re-instated – formerly claim #15) The method of claim 13, wherein

said extracellular stimulation is stimulation by tumor necrosis factor (TNF).

35. (Re-instated – formerly claim #16) The method of claim 34, wherein said promoter region is a promoter region for the interleukin 8 gene.

36. (Re-instated – formerly claim #21) The method of claim 20, wherein said reporter gene is the luciferase gene.

37. (Re-instated – formerly claim #22) The method of claim 20, wherein said extracellular stimulation is stimulation by cytokine.

38. (Re-instated – formerly claim #23) The method of claim 20, wherein said extracellular stimulation is stimulation by tumor necrosis factor (TNF).

39. (Re-instated – formerly claim #24) The method of claim 38, wherein said promoter region is a promoter region for the interleukin 8 gene.